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PATENT
0905-0206P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoshiko SHIIMORI et al. Conf.: 8134

Appl. No.: 09/107,486 Group: 2624

Filed: June 30, 1998 Examiner: K. POON

For: IMAGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

PRIOR ART SUBMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 27, 2004

Sir:

Attached hereto, Applicants provide a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,272,549 (hereinafter referred to as "US '549"). US '549 was cited in an Office Action for a corresponding European patent application, but was not forwarded to Applicants' U.S. representative in a manner that allowed timely submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)-(e). Therefore, it is Applicants' understanding that the attached reference will merely be placed in the file without formal consideration by the Examiner. Applicants do not believe that US '549 affects the issues on appeal and, therefore, have not requested that the application be withdrawn from appeal (e.g., by filing an RCE) for formal consideration thereof.

US '549 discloses two methods for reducing the transmission costs between the client and the copy center. The first method being that the colour image is compressed prior to transmission thereby reducing the "image data" to be transmitted to the copy center. The second method is that the images are physically

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delivered to the copy center by the client. (see col. 1, line 55 to col. 2, line 22 of US '549).

In comparison to aspects of the present invention, US '549 fails to disclose that the film image data transmitted from the image server can be retrieved in the client computer. US '549 only discloses the designation, not the retrieval.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

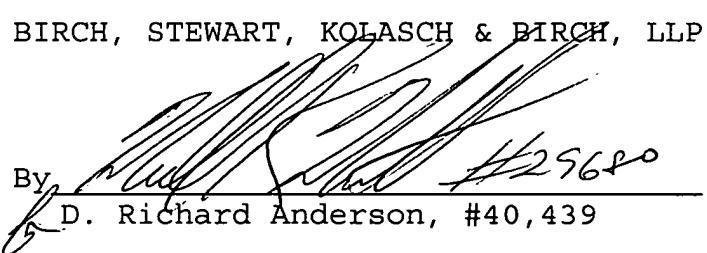
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: U.S. Patent No. 5,272,549